

Larchar House
282 Benefit Street
Providence, Rhode Island
Providence County

HABS No. 32

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
35-

PHOTOGRAPHS

*WRITTEN MATERIAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS*

Historic American Buildings Survey
Philip D. Creer, District Officer
14 College Street, Providence, R. I.

JOHN LARCHAR HOUSE

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
35-

Address: 282 Benefit Street, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island

Plat 12, lot 139.

An addendum to
John Larchar House
282 Benefit Street,
Providence, Rhode Island
in HABS Catalog Supplement (1959)

Present Owner: Mrs. John Larchar

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This house, which was designed by John Holden
Greene, has always been in the Larchar family.
It preserves in excellent condition two sets of
Joseph Dufour wallpaper.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1818 Seth Adams, trader, to John Larchar for \$900 a certain lot of land on the West side of Benefit bounded E Benefit, S Mary Throop Door, W Joseph Crawford, N John Rogers Estate---the same I bought from Heirs of Samuel Nightingale---Deed Book 38, page 104, in Providence City Hall. (Abby Nightingale et al for \$900 to Seth Adams, it being part of the Crawford left by the Estate of our deceased mother).

1820 Fire Records, John Larchar, self occupied, Brick 39' in front and 34' front to rear.

Still in Larchar Family.

2. Date of erection: Between 1818 and 1820.

3. Architect, builder: John Holden Greene, architect;
Mrs. Lucy Larchar made the plans. Probably many of the same men who worked with Greene on the Sullivan Dorr house worked on this house.

4. Notes on alterations and additions: The sun room on the west was originally an open balcony. The kitchen ell at south was originally one story high; second story added in 1939.
5. Sources of information:

Antoinette Forrester Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, 1937), pp. 342, 362, 364.

Norman Morrison Isham, John Holden Greene, unpublished mss. in possession of John Hutchins Cady, Providence, Rhode Island.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
August, 1961.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a large brick house with elegant interiors, well preserved.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 39' (5 bays) wide x 34', two stories plus attic plus cellar which is at ground level at the rear--two-story kitchen wing on south side; small frame addition on rear is later.
2. Foundations: Where visible on rear are brick; fieldstone on sides; regular ashlar granite on front.
3. Wall construction: Brick laid in common bond with thin mortar joints.
4. Porches, stoops: Granite entrance stoop, two steps high. Enclosed porch on rear.
5. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys in the outside walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doors: Original six panel door, in a pilaster frame with reeded decoration and with a segmental fanlight with cut granite lintel. Louvered outer door on front.

- b. Windows and shutters: six light over six light double hung windows; brick openings have granite sills and heads; adjustable louvered shutters.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable with lighted cupola, which is later; covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice: Molded cornice with simple brackets which has been added recently.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Five room, central hall plan; kitchen originally in cellar; both floors alike originally. Kitchen ell a little later. Second story of this ell built in 1939. North rooms: baths inserted between the bedrooms.
2. Stairways: Three run, with open riser end, applied scroll decoration, rectangular baluster, colonette (Doric) newel post, shadow rail, straight rail.
3. Flooring: Board, about 10" wide; hard pine in all downstairs rooms except middle back room and hall. New floors in these rooms and upstairs.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wainscoting to chair rail, recessed panels; plaster above; plaster ceilings, round molded ceiling medallion.
5. Doors: Six panel (recessed panels)
6. Doorways: Molded frames, original.
7. Trim: The wallpaper in the north parlors is Joseph Dufour, Monuments of Paris and Banks of the Bosphorus. Both sets are in excellent condition. There are nine fireplaces; seven mantelpieces are original and excellent examples of that period. Cornices, molded plaster. Mantelpiece, one story, north, double attached colonettes. Adam style ~~paterae~~ paterae in frieze shaped shelf in southeast parlor. Simple one-story mantel in middle west room; Greek Revival mantels in north parlor.
8. Hardware: Oval brass knobs and plates, butt hinges.
9. Lighting: Electric; chandelier (old fashioned kerosene lamp).

10. Heating: Central and fireplaces, stone hearths.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces east on the sidewalk, narrow spaces on sides between neighboring houses, garden in the rear on west side.
2. Enclosures: Wire fences at the sides and the rear.
3. Landscaping: Informal garden, in rear, slopes down from the house with stone walks, paths, and terraces; flowers, shrubs, trees and lawn.
4. Walks: Concrete in front; brick in rear.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
And Antoinette F. Downing
for the Providence Preservation Society
August, 1961.